This Week's Forum: Page 26

EDUCATION WEEK

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Drug-Exposed Children Pose Special Problems

'School Systems Are Not Ready To Deal With It'

By Debra Viadero

LOS ANGELES—Watching the 4-year-old leave the school bus, Vicky Ferrara could tell that something was wrong.

The boy was agitated. He leaped to a bench, then onto a nearby wall. A word with the bus driver disclosed that he had also misbehaved on the way to school.

What could have been a small, familiar vignette for most preschool teachers became then, for Vicky Ferrara, cause for gentle probing and extra emotional support.

Hers is a special preschool class, a pilot program serving some of this city's youngest drug victims: the children of drug-using mothers. And here, even the smallest event can take on layers of added significance.

In this boy's case, the agitation had been prompted, Ms. Ferrara learned, by a morning spat with his foster mother. "That's why I didn't want to come to school," he admitted.

As a baby, the boy had been abandoned for stretches that could last from two hours to two days while his natural mother searched for drugs. Even in his current, loving home environment, Ms. Ferrara said, he is still afraid he will not find a mother at home when he returns—especially if he has made her angry.

The boy's anguish was easily soothed this day with a reassuring telephone call to his foster mother. But Vicky Ferrara wonders whether others among the estimated 375,000 children born each year to

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Debra Viadero/Education Week

A teaching assistant in a program for drug-exposed youngsters comforts a child.

Cavazos Couples Parental Choice, Site Management

Two Reform Strategies Given Equal Backing

By William Snider

NEW YORK CITY—Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos last week called school-based management an essential supplement to parental choice, indicating for the first time that he considers the two reform strategies of equal importance in efforts to improve schools.

Teachers and principals should also be allowed to choose or create distinctive schools, the Secretary said, so that parents and students can have meaningful choices among differing educational approaches.

The remarks came during the first of five regional meetings that Secretary Cavazos has called to further the national debate on parental choice, a term he defines broadly to encompass a wide variety of models and philosophies.

Education Department officials described the Secretary's statements as an "evolution" in his thinking, rather than a substantive shift in direction.

By emphasizing the coupling of choice and school-based management, however, Secretary Cavazos appeared to move closer to the views of many liberal proponents of choice. Such advocates argue that choice could allow diverse approaches to education to thrive, and could ensure that students would be able to find a school that meets their unique needs.

Conservative proponents of choice, on the other hand, typically stress the benefits of free-market forces in education, and place greater emphasis on competition based on quality, rather than diversity.

The shift, however, did little to mute criticism of Mr. Cavazos' choice initiative.

Representative Augustus F. Hawkins, one of the leading opponents of federal efforts to promote choice, last week launched a counteroffensive from Washington, D.C.

Mr. Hawkins, the California Democrat who chairs the House Education and Labor

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Hillery I. Isaacs

Secretary Cavazos addresses regional meeting on parental choice last week.

States' Improvement On Education Goals Called 'Only Modest'

By Robert Rothman

States have made "only modest" progress toward achieving the goals set forth in *A Nation at Risk*, the landmark 1983 document that helped spur the school-reform movement, a forthcoming report by a federally funded research center contends.

The report, expected to be released late this month, also partially debunks the notion that state efforts turned, in mid-decade, toward a so-called "second wave" of reform seeking school-based solutions to the question of quality, rather than merely increased requirements.

"It is true that high-school curricula are [now] more academically oriented, standards for the teaching profession are more selective, teachers' salaries are higher, and state and local governments have boosted educational funding," the report says. "But doubts still linger about the rigor and challenge of some of the new courses in academic subjects, the impact of reform on at-risk students, the quality of teachers and teaching, and the equitable funding of schools."

Moreover, it adds, schools lack adequate indicators to measure progress, and some controversial reforms, such as career ladders and merit pay for teachers, "have not been widely adopted."

Despite its assessment of limited success,

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'Explosive' Data Confirm Prediction: AIDS Is Spreading Among Teenagers

By Ellen Flax

New federal statistics appear to substantiate a warning sounded often by public-health experts over the past several years: The AIDS virus is spreading rapidly among teenagers.

Between July 1988 and August 1989, the number of teenagers with AIDS jumped by 43 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

As of this month, 421 cases of AIDS among 13- to 19-year-olds had been reported to the C.D.C. That number, health officials emphasize, includes only teenagers who have actually developed the disease, not those who have been infected by the human immunodeficiency virus but show no signs of illness.

What is especially disquieting, experts with federal and private agencies agree, is the evidence that many adolescents, both boys and girls, are engaging in behavior that puts them at potentially high risk.

"The explosive spread of the virus among heterosexuals that health officials warned about is becoming a reality among adolescents," said Warda Wigfall-Williams, director of the initiative on adolescents, AIDS, and H.I.V. at the private Center for Population Options, which released a report on the

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Gesell Institute Is Facing Uncertain Future In Wake of Budget Woes, Testing Questions

By Deborah L. Cohen

One of the venerable names in the child-development field is facing an uncertain future in the wake of steep financial losses and controversies surrounding the methods it pioneered for assessing school "readiness."

The Gesell Institute of Human Development, which for decades has offered a comprehensive training and assessment program stressing the physical, social, and emotional development of the child, has pared back its operations to a core group of services, according to officials.

In the past year and a half, the institute has eliminated most of its clinical services and cut its full-time professional staff from about 47 to 9, with five of those remaining expected to depart by early next year.

Gesell also has eliminated its holistic-medicine and nutrition departments and is phasing out its vision and psychological services.

The institute had a $422,000 deficit for the 1988 fiscal year, and the two buildings that house its New Haven, Conn., headquarters

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School officials say police acted like "Rambo" in searching district files for evidence in an abuse case.

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A $10-million effort by the Ford Foundation aims to improve math teaching for at-risk middle-school pupils.

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Education groups are finding that some of their most effective Capitol Hill lobbyists are not professionals.

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Desegregating DeKalb Schools
Officials in DeKalb County, Ga., must take further steps—such as implementing a mandatory-busing plan—to end the segregation of their schools, a federal appeals panel has ruled. **Page 6.**

Blacks' Status Assessed
A panel on the status of black Americans last week urged the courts to hold state governments responsible for the prompt desegregation of school districts. **Page 7.**

Chicago's Choice
Ted D. Kimbrough, the superintendent of a small urban district in California, has been chosen after a yearlong search to head the troubled Chicago public-school system. **Page 9.**

Arkansas's Special Session
The state's special legislative session won't be taking up Gov. Bill Clinton's proposal to increase the sales tax to fund teacher pay raises and other educational improvements. **Page 15.**

'Amateurs' on the Hill
Some of the most effective education lobbyists on Capitol Hill are the "amateurs" that national associations bring in to work the halls of Congress to influence legislation. **Page 18.**

Only a Paper Loss?
Last week the U.S. Education Department lost $949 million from its budget—at least on paper—when the Congress failed to meet its deadline for completing action on the fiscal 1990 budget. **Page 18.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

N.C.A.A. To Consider Proposal For New Nonathletic Scholarships

The National Collegiate Athletic Association will consider proposals to allow athletes who do not meet certain academic requirements to receive nonathletic, need-based scholarships.

A series of proposals adopted by the N.C.A.A.'s Presidents' Commission during a meeting earlier this month in Kansas City, Mo., would drastically shorten spring football practice, shorten the basketball season by a month, and reduce by three the number of basketball games played each season.

The package of recommendations also includes a proposal to provide nonathletic scholarships to first-year student-athletes who want to attend summer school, according to James A. Marchiony, an N.C.A.A. spokesman.

The commission also agreed to place a proposal before its general membership that would require all Division I and II members to disclose their graduation rates in all sports.

In addition, the commission agreed to begin reporting the graduation rates of students in football and basketball programs by race.

The scholarship proposals were seen as concessions to critics of Proposition 42, a rule passed last January that denies aid to student-athletes who fail to meet minimum academic requirements.

N.C.A.A. members are expected to vote on the proposals at the organization's annual convention in January, Mr. Marchiony said.

■ **A task force of sports administrators and coaching educators is working to establish a National Coaching Education Association to heighten the professional status of their field.**

The new task force was created last month at a conference sponsored by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the American Coaching Effectiveness Program, a for-profit organization dedicated to coaching education.

The task force is made up of one representative from each of five coaching education programs and a total of eight representatives from colleges and universities, secondary schools, community-based youth-sports organizations, and the U.S. Olympic National Governing Bodies, according to the A.C.E.P..

Don Sparks, assistant director of the National Federation of State High School Associations, has been selected as the ex officio chairman of the task force.

STATES

Court Rules Judge Must Pick School for Children of Divorce

When divorced parents with joint child custody disagree on how their child should be educated, a trial court must make a decision based on "the child's best interests," the Minnesota Court of Appeals has ruled.

The court reversed an earlier ruling in which a trial court sided with a man who contended that his child should be educated in a public school rather than at home, where his former wife planned to teach the child. The trial court agreed with the father's argument that the child would be better served by attending school outside the home.

But a three-judge panel of the state appeals court ruled unanimously this month that it is up to the trial court to choose the best school for the child.

Although a 1978 state law established the right of a parent with custody to determine the child's upbringing, including education, the panel said the statute was superseded by a 1981 law. The newer law requires the trial court to make a decision "in the child's best interests" when divorced parents with joint custody disagree on their children's education, health care, or religious training.

"Justice in the case cannot be achieved through any alternative presumption in favor of either joint custodian," the panel stated.

■ **The Ohio Education Association provided sufficient financial information to meet constitutional requirements when it tried to collect fees from non-union teachers two years ago**, a federal appeals court has ruled.

Six teachers in two school districts sued the association in 1987, claiming that the union had violated their First Amendment rights by not disclosing adequate information before collecting a fee for representing them.

A lower court ruled in favor of the union in November 1988. Earlier this month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit concurred. It ruled that the local unions had met their obligation by providing the association's audited financial statement, a supplemental statement detailing expenses charged and not charged to nonmembers, a copy of its 1987-88 budget, and copies of the audited financial statement and supplemental schedule of the National Education Association, with which the O.E.A. is affiliated.

Howling About Halloween

"Halloween," says Will Irby, "is definitely not my favorite holiday."

It's not that the Levy County, Fla., schools superintendent is naturally opposed to celebrating the feast day of ghouls and goblins. It's just that parents in his district who have complained that Halloween is a manifestation of witchcraft have sapped him of his festive spirit.

"We have constituents in the district with strong concerns about their rights being violated by the celebration of Halloween in our schools," Mr. Irby says.

Rather than face a legal challenge from the parents, who believe that witchcraft is a religion, Mr. Irby decided to ban observance of the holiday and its accompanying rituals in the schools. He sent a memorandum to teachers and school administrators late last month asking schools to "be very sensitive to these concerns and the possible legal ramifications."

Several years ago, district schools abandoned Halloween parties in favor of so-called "fall festivals," Mr. Irby says. But students and teachers continued to dress up as witches, ghosts, and ghouls, and Halloween traditions persisted.

So Mr. Irby also asked school employees not to display decorations or don Halloween costumes lest these rituals be viewed as paying homage to witchcraft, and result in charges that the schools are violating the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state.

Peter Steiner

But angry Halloween loyalists have sent him bundles of mail seeking to edify him on the traditions and history of the holiday. "I could be a Halloween expert at this point," Mr. Irby laments.

Mr. Irby is not alone. School officials in Maryland and Texas have similarly found themselves haunted by the Halloween issue this year. Several schools in Frederick County, Md., have canceled Halloween parties, and the school board of Harlingen, Tex., has appointed a committee to study the issue after a parent complained that Halloween is a "satanic holy day."

But in the end, Mr. Irby concedes, the decision of how to observe—or not observe—Halloween at the school fall festivals is one for each community and individual family to make. It is simply "a matter of respecting individuals' civil rights," he says.

—J. W.

DISTRICTS

Indiana Student Faces Charges In Bombings at High School

A high-school sophomore is facing criminal charges in connection with two bomb explosions that caused minor damage and prompted officials to dismiss classes at the Anderson (Ind.) High School this month.

No one was injured in the explosions on Oct. 9 and 10, but about $800 worth of damage was done to the school's wrestling room and choral room.

School officials dismissed classes both days after they received threats of more bombings. Several other area high schools also received bomb threats around the same time, but no explosions occurred.

Although absenteeism was higher than usual in the days immediately following the bombings, attendance at Anderson High School quickly returned to normal, and no more threats were received, said Richard Worden, the school's assistant principal.

The sophomore charged in the case has been expelled from school and faces a juvenile hearing Dec. 31. A second sophomore who was implicated was also expelled, but has not been charged, Mr. Worden said.

■ **Police patrolled the campus of Minor High School in Birmingham, Ala., last week after racial tensions at the school erupted into a melee on Oct. 11 in which the school's principal and a student were stabbed.**

Approximately 45 police officers were dispatched to the school following the brawl in the school's lunchroom, and six students were arrested for their part in the fighting, according to Larry A. Vines, an assistant principal. A teacher who had fired a gun in the air was suspended with pay pending further investigation, and 26 students were suspended from school.

As of last week, the number of police officers assigned to the school had been reduced to 10, and the school was "almost back to normal," Mr. Vines said.

The fighting, he speculated, was the result of racial unrest in the school, marked by a "perception on the part of black students that they are not receiving enough recognition" at the school. Black students make up approximately 23 percent of the student body.

To help minimize future racial tensions, the school has increased the number of counselors on duty and is planning a number of meetings and school activities designed to help "sensitize students and teachers to racial issues," Mr. Vines said.

■ **A Wayne County Circuit Court jury has awarded $650,000 to a milk distributor who accused former Detroit school officials of steering milk contracts away from his firm.**

In a suit filed in 1986, Joe McLemore, owner of Joe-Dan Ltd., accused the officials of plotting to persuade the school board that his company was a black "front" for a white-owned firm. As a result, Mr. McLemore said, the company lost a $2 million contract to a higher bidder, Metro Institutional Food Service.

Found liable in the case were Harold Murdock, former president of the schoolboard; Ferd Hall, former director of the school district's equal opportunity division; and Steve Asmar, president of Metro Institutional.

■ **Teachers in financially strapped East St. Louis, Ill., went on strike for three days earlier this month, but returned to the classroom after reaching agreement on a three-year contract.**

The district, which is $12.5 million in debt and has been declared "in financial difficulty" by the state, had sought to have teachers pay for a portion of the health-care coverage their dependents receive.

The East St. Louis Federation of Teachers rejected an offer by the board of education to submit the dispute to binding arbitration, according to Stephanie Carpenter, an aide to Elmo Bush, the schools superintendent.

Under the new contract, teachers will not pay more for health coverage this year. However, Ms. Carpenter said, the contract can be reopened if the district's insurance costs continue to rise.

Teachers in the district, which has 16,000 students, also received 2 percent raises for this year and 5 percent raises for the next two years, she said.

■ **The Dallas School Board has agreed to pay $600,000 to end a long-running property dispute with an erstwhile donor.**

The legal battle over the Rylie Elementary School grounds, which Ike Sewell donated to the Dallas Independent School District in 1954, began four years ago.

Cameron Dee Sewell, nephew and heir to Ike Sewell, successfully sued the district in 1985, claiming that the district was violating the terms of his uncle's gift.

In conveying the property to the district in 1954, Ike Sewell stipulated that the donated land be used "solely for school purposes." Since 1983, the district has leased most of the building to the city's parks and recreation department.

When the Texas Supreme Court upheld Cameron Sewell's legal victory in 1987, Mr. Sewell seized the school, blocking entrance to the building with hay bales and chains.

The $600,000 settlement, approved by the Dallas School Board Oct. 10, covers rent for the 51 months the board challenged Mr. Sewell's claim. He currently leases part of the building to a church group and rents out the football field to private schools.

■ **The parents of a boy with muscular dystrophy are suing the Westlake, Ohio, school district in an effort to force the district to allow their son to attend his local junior high school rather than a special program 12 miles away.**

The lawsuit, filed by Roger and Carol Evans in U.S. District Court earlier this month, caps a 16-month-long effort to get their son into the local junior high school. The Evanses' claim that Westlake school officials are discriminating against the boy by busing him to a school in nearby Parma, where he attends a special program for orthopedically impaired students.

Westlake school officials maintain that they cannot provide the special services the boy needs in their own district.

DIMENSIONS

Hispanic Population Boom

The Hispanic population of the United States has topped 20 million for the first time, the U.S. Census Bureau reports.

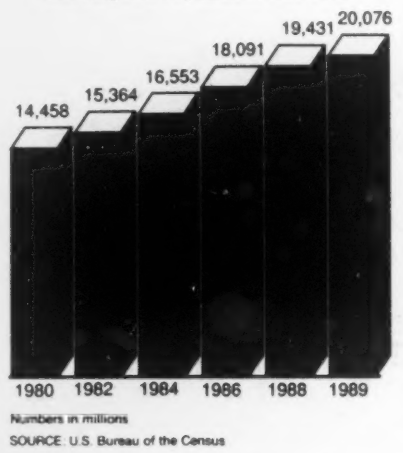
This year, approximately 20.1 million Hispanic people live in the United States, the bureau reports. Since 1980, when the figure was 14.5 million, the Hispanic population has increased 39 percent—a rate about five times that of the non-Hispanic population, the bureau states. Half of that gain came from immigration. Hispanics—including both legal and illegal residents—now make up 8.2 percent of the total population.

Mexicans (12.6 million) are by far the largest Hispanic group.

Most of the Hispanic population live in California (34 percent), Texas (21 percent), and New York (10 percent).

Hispanics are still the second-largest minority group. Blacks number some 30 million, according to the bureau.

The figures are based on a March survey of 56,000 nationally representative homes.



PEOPLE

■ **Cecil Henderson** won the Garvin County, Okla., schools superintendency with an unusual campaign promise: If I win, I'll quit.

He did. He has.

Mr Henderson, a retired schoolteacher, stepped down Oct. 1 from the $23,000-a-year position. His resignation will save the county about $20,000 this year, he said.

"I just didn't feel the position was needed," he said. The county has 10 schools, and the school superintendent mostly handled student transfers among them, he explained.

Forty-one of the state's 77 counties are now without school superintendents.

■ At the request of the Texas oilman **T. Boone Pickens**, the entertainer **Bill Cosby** performed a special concert in Amarillo, Tex., last week to raise funds for Carver Elementary Academy, a public magnet school focusing on computer skills.

The benefit concert, performed before a sellout audience, raised $175,000 for the new school, which has been struggling to keep its doors open in the face of severe budget problems in the district, said Mary Stein, a spokesman for Mr. Pickens.

Mr. Pickens and his company, Mesa Limited Partnership, enabled the school to open on schedule in September by donating half the academy's $852,000 two-year operating budget and by agreeing to help the predominantly black community raise the remaining funds.

Mr. Cosby's standup comedy routine, performed at Amarillo's civic center, raised enough money to help the school reach its fundraising goal, Ms. Stein said.

AP/Wide World

SAY HI—Connor McDonald, in the lap of his father, Steven, a paralyzed New York City police officer, greets the cartoon character "Tweety Bird" at the opening of the Children's Museum of Manhattan last week. Connor's mother, Patti, is at left.

UPDATE

■ **Rochester, N.H., school officials have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a federal appeals court ruling that schools must educate all handicapped children, regardless of how little they might benefit or how severe their disability.**

The case, *Timothy W.* v. *Rochester School District*, involves a 14-year-old boy who is multiply handicapped and so severely retarded that experts disagree as to whether he could benefit from special education.

The lower court's ruling in the case last May is thought to be the first such decision to address the question of whether federal special-education law requires schools to educate all children, even those, like Timothy W., who might not benefit from it. *(See Education Week, June 7, 1989.)*

Rochester school officials contend that they should not be required to "waste scarce public resources on expensive special education" for such children. A spokesman for the district said the Court will decide by December whether to consider the case.

■ **A popular book by Dr. Seuss has won a reprieve in California.**

Rather than bow to parents' requests to remove the book *The Lorax* from the 2nd-grade required-reading list, the board for the Laytonville (Calif.) Unified School District voted unanimously earlier this month to ask Brian Buckley, the district's superintendent, to review the list and suggest any changes he deems necessary.

Some parents in the small logging town had suggested that the book should not be required reading for young children. The children, they said, are troubled by the apparent conflict between the story's conservationist theme and the reality that many townspeople earn their living from logging. *(See Education Week, Oct. 4, 1989.)*

'Explosive' Data Confirm Predictions: AIDS Spread Among Teenagers Rapid

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subject last week.

James H. Williams, director of the National Education Association's health-information network, added: "I really don't think [educators] appreciate how extensive a problem this is. I don't think they see it as an epidemic."

"Unless they know of an H.I.V. child, or a teacher, in their school," he said, "it doesn't hit home."

Andrew Humm, director of education at the Hetrick-Martin Institute for Lesbian and Gay Youth in New York City, agreed. "No sense of emergency has been created in the schools," he said.

Experts say that although teenagers account for less than 1 percent of all reported AIDS cases, their sexual behavior, including intercourse with multiple partners and infrequent use of condoms, may make them more vulnerable than many adults to H.I.V. exposure.

Nationally, most confirmed cases of AIDS have been found in adult homosexual males, although an increasing number of patients are drug users from minority backgrounds.

The C.D.C. estimates that between 1 million and 1.5 million people in the United States have been infected by H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, for an infection rate of from 4.3 to 6.5 per 1,000. In certain high-risk teenage groups, such as runaways, homosexuals, and intravenous-drug users, the rate could be even higher, C.D.C. officials say.

According to the C.D.C. data, female adolescents are more likely than adult females to contract AIDS. The male-to-female ratio of adolescent AIDS cases is 5 to 1; among adults, that ratio is 12 to 1.

The data show that the biggest single source of exposure to the virus reported by female adolescent patients was heterosexual contact, which was cited by nearly 4 out of 10 such patients. Some 72 percent of the female teenagers with AIDS are black or Hispanic; the C.D.C. has reported that this is probably the result of the higher intravenous-drug-use rates among minority males.

At a 1987 Congressional hearing, former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop warned of a future "explosion" in the number of teenagers infected with the AIDS virus. *(See Education Week, June 24, 1987.)*

'Truly Phenomenal' Rates

This prediction appears to have been disturbingly accurate, researchers tracking the spread of AIDS say. They point to the following data:

- About one-fifth of the nearly 110,000 AIDS cases diagnosed to date in the United States have been found in people in their 20's. Scientists believe that the AIDS virus can have an incubation period of up to 10 years, meaning that many of these people were infected as teenagers.
- Of the teenagers who applied to join the military between October 1985 and June 1988, 0.04 percent were H.I.V. positive, according to tests required of all recruits. Among Job Corps applicants, who are also tested for exposure to the virus, 0.33 percent of the teenage applicants since 1987 have tested positive.
- Of more than 1,100 homeless and runaway youths anonymously tested for H.I.V. infection by Covenant House, a shelter for young people in New York City, 7 percent had been exposed to the virus.
- In the first national survey on the prevalence of AIDS on college campuses, released last spring, 0.2 percent of the 16,861 blood samples tested showed infection with H.I.V. Ten of the 19 schools participating in the survey had infection rates of zero, while five had rates that were 0.4 percent or higher.
- A national study of blood samples from hospitals conducted by the C.D.C. found that 1 percent of the 15- and 16-year-olds in high-risk cities, such as New York, were infected with the virus. It also found that between two and three times as many 21-year-olds were infected as well. In lower-risk areas, 0.3 percent of 15- and 16-year-olds were infected.
- The rates of teenagers who have other sexually transmitted diseases—often a sign of unprotected intercourse—is on the rise. The number of reported syphilis cases for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 rose from 15 per 100,000 in 1984 to 21.9 per 100,000 last year.

In 1987, gonorrhea was reported in more than 1 percent of young people ages 15 to 19. Although people between the ages of 20 and 24 had an infection rate of more than 1.5 percent, the C.D.C. found that "when adjusting for sexual-activity rates adolescents 15-19 actually have the highest rates of gonorrhea of any age group."

H. Hunter Handsfield, director of the sexually transmitted disease-control program for the Seattle-King County Department of Health, called the gonorrhea rates "truly phenomenal," especially for black, inner-city teenage girls.

In his area, he said, if a black girl becomes sexually active at the age of 13 or 14, her risk of of getting gonorrhea is 25 percent every year. If the same girl delays her sexual activity until the age of 15, she has a 50 percent chance of getting the disease by the age of 18, he said.

Risk-Taking Common

Experts say a variety of emotional and physical factors make teenagers more susceptible to AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Adolescents, they say, are more likely than adults to experiment and take risks—and frequently fail to weigh the potential consequences of their actions.

Such tendencies carry over into their sex lives, the experts say. As a result, sexually active teenagers are more likely than adults to have a large number of sexual partners—and are less likely to use condoms or other forms of contraception.

And teenage girls may be especially susceptible to sexually transmitted diseases, physicians say, because the cells that line their cervix—and are more vulnerable to these diseases—are more likely to extend beyond the cervix at menarche.

Role of Schools

The new report by the Center for Population Options, a Washington-based group that has strongly promoted the movement for school-based health clinics, contains much of this new data and calls on schools, parents, communities, and health-care providers to play a more active role in AIDS prevention.

A study completed earlier this year by the Alan Guttmacher Institute found that, while more than 9 out of 10 sex-education teachers discuss AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, such discussion appears to be inadequate.

"At least on the surface, it seems that coverage of these topics is universal, but not in great depth," said Asta M. Kenney, associate for policy development at the institute.

Others say that schools cannot be expected to play more than a limited role in preventing the spread of AIDS.

"The schools are not a public-health agency," said Louis Nayman, director of the AIDS-education project and a field director for the American Federation of Teachers. "Their primary responsibility is not to stop the transmission of disease."

AIDS Cases Among U.S. Children by Sex and Race, Reported Through 1989

Age at Diagnosis (years)	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian Pacific Islander	American Indian Alaskan Native	Total
Males:						
Under 5	142	436	209	3	2	794
5-12	117	62	39	3	—	222
13-19	171	97	62	5	3	339
Subtotal	430	595	310	11	5	1355
Females:						
Under 5	127	426	176	1	2	733
5-12	25	55	28	2	—	110
13-19	16	50	14	1	1	82
Subtotal	168	531	218	4	3	925
Total	**598**	**1126**	**528**	**15**	**8**	**2280**

SOURCE: HIV AIDS Surveillance Report

Specialist in Pediatric AIDS Tops List for Surgeon General

WASHINGTON—Antonia Novello, a pediatrician who is considered an expert in pediatric AIDS, is the leading candidate to become the next Surgeon General, the White House said last week.

If nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Novello would be the first female and the first Hispanic to fill the post.

She would replace C. Everett Koop, who drew national attention for his frank talk about AIDS and his campaign against smoking.

Dr. Novello is currently the deputy director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She has specialized in kidney diseases and headed a Department of Health and Human Services task force on pediatric AIDS.

Antonia Novello

A White House spokesman was unable to say when the nomination might be formally announced. —E.F.

Catholic Bishops Weigh Dropping Support for Condom Information

In a continuation of a prolonged debate within the nation's Roman Catholic hierarchy, a committee of bishops has recommended that the church remove its qualified support for AIDS-education programs that include information about condoms.

"Education in human sexuality which tells young people in effect that abstinence and 'safe sex' are equally acceptable options sends a contradictory, confusing message," argues a draft policy statement issued by the panel this month.

The document, which reverses a 1987 church statement, was drafted by a committee of five bishops. It will be voted on by approximately 300 bishops at a meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops next month.

"Not only is the use of prophylactics in an attempt to halt the spread of [the human immunodeficiency virus] technically unreliable; promoting this approach means, in effect, promoting behavior which is morally unacceptable," the document concludes.

Education campaigns promoting the use of condoms, it says, "do nothing to correct the mistaken notion that non-marital intercourse has the same value and validity as sexual intercourse within marriage."

The policy paper released two years ago restated traditional church doctrine on sexuality, which strongly condemns extramarital sex and artificial methods of contraception, but acknowledged that "some people will not act as they can and should."

For that reason, the 1987 document said, AIDS-education efforts "could include accurate information about prophylactic devices or other practices proposed by some medical experts as potential means of preventing AIDS." *(See Education Week, Jan. 13, 1988.)*

That statement was immediately assailed by some influential church leaders, including one of the authors of the new policy paper, Cardinal John O'Connor of New York. To defuse the controversy, the bishops decided to issue another statement on AIDS. —E.F.

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